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MONDAY EVEN'G., DECEMBER 2, 1878

The second session of the forty fifth Congress began to day, but unfortunately cannot last over three months, during which time, however, much precious legislation may be effected with but little good.

Congress reassembled to day but adjourned after listening to the reading of the President's message.

We published Friday the list of the address recently issued to the people of the State by some of their fellow citizens as much interested in the welfare of the Commonwealth as any other equal number that could be selected. Saturday we printed the full text of the address, and to day we commend it to the careful attention of our readers. The State's financial condition is bad enough to be sure, but it is by no means so bad as some wish us to believe, and though it is right hard to pay even the present rate of State taxes, there are but few, who, in order to get the State out of the slough into which she has fallen, and to re-establish her credit, would be unwilling to stand such a small increase as that proposed. A remarkable thing about the proposed increase of State taxation is that those whom it would affect the most are those who offer it the least opposition, while, in the cities, at least, those who oppose it the most are those whom it would affect the least. While recommending the address to the attentive consideration of our readers it must not be implied that we, for one moment, look with any favor upon what some may suppose is a disguised attempt to create a new political party in the State. Good conservatives can be elected to carry out the proposed measure, and there must be no objection to any movement that has for its object the disruption of the conservative party.

The Secretary of the Treasury recommends an increase in the intrinsic value of the silver dollar, a limit to its coinage and a reduction in its legal tender quality. He also opposes the redemption of trade dollars, and the proposition to invest them with the legal tender quality. He is confident of the success of resumption under the existing laws.

News of the Day.
The Roman Catholic Cathedral fair closed in New York Saturday night. It netted nearly \$175,000.

Candell, Brother & Co., jewelers, of Baltimore, have suspended. Liabilities, \$130,000; assets unknown. The cause of suspension is due, it is said, to shrinkage in value.

The anniversary of the hanging of John Brown will be commemorated at Princeton, Ill., to-day, in the Congregational Church. Z. Eastman, of Chicago, one of the original abolitionists, will deliver the address.

M. L. Cook, who had been tried and convicted of the murder of Mrs. Minnie C. Allison on August 20th last, was last Saturday at 2:30 a. m. sentenced to be hung on January 23d next. The court scene was very affecting, the judge completely breaking down while passing the sentence.

During the funeral services of Hon. M. S. Henry, in the Episcopal Church, at Sterling, Va., Friday, the floor of the vestibule gave way, precipitating the crowd into the cellar, and Edward Pierce was badly injured. Great excitement or prevailed for a few moments, but the crowd was soon quieted by the self possession of the pastor.

The steamboat Charles Morgan, from Cincinnati bound to New Orleans, collided with the steamboat Cotton Valley, bound to the R. d. river, yesterday when opposite Donaldsonville. The latter boat was sunk, and with her cargo, is a total loss. Twenty lives were lost by the disaster. Sol. Myer, Henry Levy and Mrs. Sanford, all of Alexandria, La., are known to have perished.

Virginia News.
The report is current that Gov. Holliday, in order to settle the question of legality in regard to the assembly of the Legislature, will call that body to meet in extra session on Wednesday. The Governor will not state positively his intention of so doing, but says he will decide the matter by Tuesday evening.

Special Agent Henderson, of the Postoffice Department, yesterday arrested, in Richmond, A. W. Wilcox, Louisville agent in charge of mails between the postoffice and the railroad depots, charged with robbing mails. Letters containing money have been missed for several months and Department officials have been on the lookout for the thief for two weeks past, till finally Wilcox was caught in the act of robbing letters in a mail car at the depot. When arrested he had numbers of letters on his person. He was taken before United States Commissioner Atkins and held to bail in \$5,000. Wilcox, some three or four years ago, was part owner of the State Journal, a republican newspaper.

The Kentucky Rebellion.
FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 2.—The only account received here of any disturbance in Breathitt county comes through the correspondence of a Mount Sterling paper. It is stated that two men were killed in a general election. A personal difficulty existed between the newly elected County Judge, named Barnett, and a man named Strong, who was his opponent in the race. Barnett is reported killed.

The statement that Judge Randall had fled the fury of the mob is not credited. His court had probably closed its business when he left Jackson, otherwise he would have communicated with the Governor ere this, as he has had ample time to do since Wednesday, the date of the Mount Sterling letter.

COURT OF APPEALS, SATURDAY.—Smith et al vs. Blackwell et al; argued by Wm. L. Royall, et al, for appellants and Judge Wm. J. Robertson for appellees, and submitted.

Francis vs. Francis; submitted.

Carter vs. Rogers, executor; submitted.

LOST.—Among those lost by the sinking of the steamer Cotton Valley on the Mississippi river was Miss Sandford, of London county, Va., aged sixteen, who was well known in this city.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Our heartfelt gratitude is due to the Divine Being, who holds in His hands the destinies of nations, for the continued bestowal, during the last year, of countless blessings upon our country.

We are at peace with all other nations. Our public credit has greatly improved, and is, perhaps, now stronger than ever before. Abundant harvests have rewarded the labors of those who till the soil, our manufacturing industries are reviving, and it is believed that general prosperity, which has been so long anxiously looked for, is at last within our reach.

The enjoyment of health by our people generally has, however, been interrupted, during the past season, by the prevalence of a fatal pestilence, the yellow fever, in some portions of the southern States, creating an emergency which called for prompt and extraordinary measures of relief. The disease appeared as an epidemic at New Orleans and at other places on the lower Mississippi, soon after mid-autumn. It was rapidly spread by fugitives from the infected cities and towns, and did not disappear until early in November. The States of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee have suffered severely. About 100,000 cases are believed to have occurred, of which about 20,000, according to intelligent estimates, proved fatal. It is impossible to estimate with any approach to accuracy the loss to the country occasioned by this epidemic. It is to be reckoned by the millions of dollars. The suffering and hundreds of thousands of deaths, excited the deepest sympathy in all parts of the Union. Physicians and nurses hastened from every quarter to the assistance of the afflicted communities. Voluntary contributions of money and supplies, in every needed form, were speedily and generously furnished. The Government was able to respond in some measure to the call for help, by providing tents, medicines and food for the sick and destitute, the requisite directions for the purpose being given, in the confident expectation that this action of the Executive would receive the sanction of Congress. About 1800 tents, and rations of the value of about \$25,000, were sent to cities and towns which applied for them, full details of which will be furnished to Congress by the proper Department.

The fearful spread of this pestilence has awakened a very general public sentiment in favor of national sanitary administration, which shall not only control quarantine, but have the sanitary supervision of internal commerce in times of epidemics, and held an advisory relation to the State and municipal health authorities, with power to deal with whatever endangers the public health, and with the municipal and State authorities as to the regulation of the national quarantine act approved April 29, 1878, which was passed too late in the last session of Congress to provide the means for carrying it into practical operation during the past season, is a step in the direction here indicated. In view of the necessity for the most effective measures, by quarantine and otherwise, for the protection of our sea ports and the country generally, from this and other epidemics, it is recommended that Congress give to the whole subject early and careful consideration.

The permanent pacification of the country by the complete protection of all citizens in every civil and political right continues to be of paramount interest with the great body of our people. Every step in this direction is welcomed with public approval, and every interruption of steady and uniform progress to the desired consummation awakens general indignation and widespread condemnation. The recent Congressional elections have furnished a direct and trustworthy test of the advance thus far made in the practical establishment of the right of suffrage, secured by the Constitution to the liberated race in the southern States. All disturbing influences, real or imaginary, have been removed from all of these States. The new constitutional amendments, which secured freedom and equality of civil and political rights upon the colored people of the South, were adopted by the concurrent action of the great body of good citizens who maintained the authority of the National Government and the integrity and perpetuity of the Union at such a cost of treasure and life, as a wise and necessary embodiment in the organic law of the just results of the war. The people of the former slaveholding States accepted these results, gave in every practicable form, assurances that the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments and laws passed in pursuance thereof, should, in good faith, be observed, rigidly and impartially, in letter and spirit, to the end that the humblest citizen, without distinction of race or color, should, under them, receive full and equal protection in person and property and in political rights and privileges. By these constitutional amendments, the southern section of the Union obtained a large increase of political power in Congress and in the Federal Courts, and the country justly expected that elections would proceed, as to the entire race, upon the same circumstances of legal and constitutional freedom and protection which obtained in all other States of the Union. The friends of law and order looked forward to the conduct of these elections, as offering to the general judgment of the country an important opportunity to measure the degree in which the right of suffrage could be exercised by the colored people, and would be respected by their fellow citizens; but a more general enjoyment of freedom of suffrage by the colored people, and a more just and generous protection of that freedom by the communities of which they form a part, were generally anticipated than the record of the elections disclosed. In some of these States in which the colored people have been unable to make their opinions felt in the elections, the result is mainly due to influences not easily measured or remedied by legal protection; but in the States of Louisiana and South Carolina at large, and in some particular congressional districts outside of these States, the records of the elections seem to compel the conclusion that the rights of the colored voters have been overridden, and their participation in the elections not permitted to be either general or free.

It will be for the Congress for which these elections were held, to make such examinations into their conduct as may be appropriate to determine the validity of the claims of members to their seats. In the meanwhile it becomes the duty of the Executive of the Judicial Departments of the Government, each in its province, to inquire into and punish violations of the laws of the United States which have occurred. I can but repeat what I said in this connection in my last message, that whatever authority rests with me to this end I shall not hesitate to put forth, and I am unwilling to forego a renewed appeal to the legislatures, the courts, the executive authorities, and the people of the States where these wrongs have been perpetrated, to give their assistance towards bringing to justice the offenders and preventing a repetition of the crimes. No means within my power will be spared to obtain a full and fair investigation of the alleged crimes, and to secure the conviction and just punishment of the guilty.

It is to be observed that the principal appropriation made for the Department of Justice at the last session contained the following clause: "And for defraying the expenses which may be incurred in the enforcement of the act approved February twenty eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy one, entitled 'An act to amend an act approved May thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy one, to enforce the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of the Union, and for other purposes,' or any acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto.'"

It is the opinion of the Attorney General that the expenses of these proceedings will largely exceed the amount which was thus provided, and I rely confidently upon Congress to make adequate appropriations to enable the Executive Department to enforce the law.

I respectfully urge upon your attention that the congressional elections, in every district, in a very important sense, are justly a matter of political interest and concern throughout the whole country. Each State, every political party, is entitled to the share of power which is conferred by the legal and constitutional suffrage. It is the right of every citizen, possessing the qualifications prescribed by law, to cast one uninfluenced ballot, and to have his ballot honestly counted. So long as the exercise of this power and the enjoyment of this right are common and equal, practically as well as formally, submission to the results of the suffrage will be accorded loyally and cheerfully, and all the departments of Government will feel the true vigor of the popular will thus expressed. No temporary or administrative interests of Government, however urgent or weighty, will ever displace the zeal of our people in defense of its primary rights of citizenship. They understand that the protection of liberty requires the maintenance, free press and free suffrage, and will sustain the laws which are framed to preserve these inestimable rights. The material progress and welfare of the States depend on the protection afforded to their citizens. There can be no peace without such protection, no prosperity without peace, and the whole country is deeply interested in the growth and prosperity of all its parts.

While the country has not yet reached complete unity of feeling and reciprocal confidence between the communities so lately and so seriously estranged, I feel an absolute assurance that the tendencies are in that direction, and with increasing force. The power of public opinion will override all political prejudices, and all sectional or State attachments, in demanding that all over our wide territory the same and character of citizen of the United States shall mean one and the same thing, and carry with them unchallenged security and respect.

Our relations with other countries continue peaceful. Our neutrality in contests between foreign powers has been maintained and respected. The Universal Exposition held at Paris during the past summer has been attended by large numbers of our citizens. The brief period allowed for the preparation and arrangement of the contributions of our citizens to this great Exposition was well employed in energetic and judicious efforts to overcome this disadvantage. These efforts, led and directed by the Commissioner General, were remarkably successful, and the exhibition of the products of American industry was creditable and gratifying in scope and character. The reports of the United States commissioners, giving its results in detail, will be duly laid before you. Our participation in this international competition for the favor and trade of the world may be expected to produce useful and important results, in promoting intercourse, friendship, and commerce with other nations.

In accordance with the provisions of the act of February 28, 1878, three commissioners were appointed to an international conference on the subject of adopting a common ratio between gold and silver for the purpose of establishing, internationally, the use of bimetallic money, and securing fixity of relative value between those metals.

Invitations were addressed to the various governments which had expressed a willingness to participate in its deliberations. The conference held its meetings at Paris, in August last. The report of the commissioners, here submitted, will show its results. No common ratio between gold and silver could be agreed upon by the conference. The general conclusion was reached that it is necessary to maintain in the world the monetary functions of silver as well as gold, leaving the selection of the use of one or the other of these two metals, or of both, to be made by each State.

Congress having appropriated at its last session the sum of \$5,000,000 to pay the award of the Joint Commission at Halifax, in accordance with the British government, on the subject of the conformity of the award to the requirements of the treaty and to the terms of the question thereby submitted to the commission, the President shall deem it his duty to make the payment, communications upon these points were addressed to the British government through the legation of the United States at London, calling for advice the convenience of the British government in the views of this government respecting the award, I have deemed it my duty to tender the sum named, within the year fixed by the treaty, accompanied by a protest against any other condition of the same. The correspondence upon this subject will be laid before you.

The Spanish government has officially announced the termination of the insurrection in Cuba, and the restoration of peace throughout that island. Confident expectations are expressed of a revival of trade and prosperity, which it is earnestly hoped may prove well founded. Numerous claims of American citizens for relief for injuries or restoration of property, have been among the incidents of the long continued hostilities. Some of these claims are in process of adjustment by Spain, and the others are presented early and careful consideration.

The treaty made with Italy, in regard to reciprocal consular privileges, has been duly ratified and proclaimed. No questions of grave importance have arisen with any other of the European powers. The Japanese government has been desirous of a revision of such parts of its treaties with foreign powers as relate to commerce, and, it is understood, has addressed to each of the treaty powers a request to open negotiations with that view. The United States government has been inclined to regard the matter favorably. Whatever restrictions upon trade with Japan are found injurious to our people can not but be after injurious to Japan, holding equal intercourse with them. Japan, after a long period of seclusion, has within the past few years made rapid strides in the path of enlightenment and progress, and, not unreasonably, is looking forward to the time when her relations with the nations of Europe and America shall be assimilated to those which they hold with each other. A treaty looking to this end has been made, which will be submitted for the consideration of the Senate.

After an interval of several years, the Chinese government has again sent envoys to the United States. They have been received, and a permanent legation is now established here by that government. It is not doubted that this step will be of advantage to both nations in promoting friendly relations and removing causes of difference. The treaty with the Samoan Islands, having been duly ratified and accepted on the part of both governments, is now in operation, and a survey and soundings of the harbor of Pago Pago have been made by a naval vessel of the United States, with a view of its occupation as a naval station, if found desirable to the service.

Since the resumption of diplomatic relations with Mexico, correspondence has been opened and still continues between the two governments upon various questions which at one time seemed to endanger their relations. While no formal agreement has been reached as to the troubles on the border, much has been done to repress and diminish them. The effective force of United States troops on the Rio Grande, by a strict and faithful compliance with instructions, has done much to remove the sources of dispute, and it is now understood that a like force of Mexican troops on the other side of the river is also making an energetic movement against the marauding Indian tribes. This Government looks with the greatest satisfaction upon every evidence of strength in the national authority of Mexico, and upon every effort put forth to prevent or to punish incursions upon our territory. Reluctant to assume any action or attitude in the control of these incursions, by military movements across the border, not imperatively demanded for the protection of the lives and property of our own citizens, I shall take the earliest opportunity, consistent with the proper discharge of this plain duty, to recognize the ability of the Mexican Government to restrain effectively violations of our territory. It is proposed to hold next year an International Exhibition in Mexico, and it is believed that the display of the agricultural and manufacturing products of the two nations will tend to better understanding and increased commercial intercourse between their people.

With Brazil, and the Republics of Central and South America, some steps have been taken toward the development of closer commercial intercourse. Diplomatic relations have been resumed with Colombia and with Bolivia. A boundary question between the Argentine Republic and Paraguay has been submitted by those Governments for arbitration to the President of the United States, and I have, after careful examination, given a decision upon it. A naval expedition up the Amazon and Madeira rivers has brought back information valuable both for scientific and commercial purposes. A like expedition is about visiting the coast of Africa and the Indian ocean. The reports of diplomatic and consular officers in relation to the development of our foreign commerce, have furnished many facts that have proved of public interest, and have facilitated to practical exertion the enterprises of our people.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury furnishes a detailed statement of the operations of that Department of the Government, and of the condition of the public finances. The ordinary revenues from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1878, were \$257,703,878.70, the ordinary expenditures for the same period were \$236,964,326.80—leaving a surplus revenue for the year, of \$20,739,551.90.

The receipts for the present fiscal year, ending June 30, 1879, actual and estimated, are as follows: Actual receipts for the first quarter commencing July 1, 1878, \$73,389,743.43; estimated receipts for the remaining three quarters of the year, \$191,110,256.57; total receipts for the current fiscal year, actual and estimated, \$264,500,000. The expenditures for the same period will be, actual and estimated, as follows: For the quarter commencing July 1, 1878, actual expenditures, \$73,244,573.27; and for the remaining three quarters of the year, the expenditures are estimated at \$166,755,426.73—making the total expenditures, \$240,000,000, and leaving an estimated surplus revenue, for the year ending June 30, 1879, of \$24,500,000.

The total receipts during the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1880, estimated according to existing laws, will be \$264,500,000; and the estimated ordinary expenditures, for the same period, will be \$236,320,412.68, leaving a surplus of \$28,179,587.32 for that year.

In the foregoing statements of expenditures, actual and estimated, no amount is allowed for the sinking fund provided for by the act approved February 25, 1862, which requires that one per cent. of the entire debt of the United States shall be purchased or paid within each fiscal year, to be set apart as a sinking fund. There has been, however, a substantial compliance with the provisions of the law. By its terms, a public debt should have been redeemed between 1862 and the close of the last fiscal year, \$518,361,806.28; the actual redemption of the assumed debt, in that period, has been \$720,644,789.61; being in excess of the redemption required by the sinking fund act—\$202,282,983.33.

The amount of the public debt, as cash in the Treasury, November 1, 1878, was \$2,024,200,082.18—a reduction, since the same date last year, of \$23,150,617.39.

The progress made during the last year, in refunding the public debt at lower rates of interest, is very gratifying. The amount of four per cent. bonds sold during the present year, prior to November 23, 1878, is \$100,270,900, and six per cent. bonds, commonly known as five twentys, to an equal amount, have been, or will be redeemed as calls mature.

It has been the policy of the Department to place the four per cent. bonds within easy reach of every citizen who desires to invest his savings, whether small or great, in these securities. The Secretary of the Treasury recommends that the law be so modified, that small amounts may be invested, and that through the post-office, or other agency of the Government, the best opportunity may be given in all parts of the country for such investments.

The best mode suggested is, that the Department be authorized to issue certificates of deposit, of the denomination of ten dollars, bearing interest at the rate of 3.75 per cent. per annum and convertible at any time within one year after their issue into the four per cent. bonds authorized by the refunding act, and to be issued only in exchange for United States notes sent to the Treasury by mail or otherwise. Such a provision of law, supported by suitable regulations, would enable any persons ready, without cost or risk, to convert his money into an interest bearing security of the United States, and the money so received could be applied to the redemption of six per cent. bonds.

The coinage of gold during the last fiscal year was \$22,798,980. The coinage of silver dollars, under the act passed February 25, 1878, amounted to the sum of \$1,084,947.49, in circulation, and the balance, \$14,829,000, is still in the possession of the Government.

With views unchanged with regard to the act under which the coinage of silver proceeds, it has been the policy of the Secretary of the Treasury to execute the law, and to afford a fair trial to the measure.

In the present financial condition of the country, I am persuaded that the welfare of legitimate business and industry of every description will be best promoted by abstaining from all attempts to make radical changes in the existing financial legislation. Let it be understood that during the coming year the business of the country will be undisturbed by governmental interference with the law affecting it, and we may confidently expect that the resumption of specie payments, which will take place at the appointed time, will be successfully and easily maintained, and that it will be followed by a healthful and enduring revival of business prosperity.

Let the healing influence of time, the inherent energies of our people, and the boundless resources of our country, have a fair opportunity, and relief from present difficulties will surely follow.

The report of the Secretary of War shows that the army has been well and economically supplied, that our small forces have been actively employed, and has faithfully performed all the service required of it. The morale of the army has improved, and the number of deserters has materially decreased during the year.

The Secretary recommends—
1. That a pension be granted to the widow of the late Lieutenant Henry H. Benson, 1st Infantry, who lost his life by yellow fever while in command of the steamer "J. M. Chambers," sent with supplies for the relief of sufferers in the South from that disease.

2. The establishment of the annuity scheme for the benefit of the heirs of deceased officers, as suggested by the Paymaster General.

3. The adoption by Congress of a plan for the publication of the records of the War of the Rebellion, now being prepared for that purpose.

4. The increase of the extra per diem of soldiers teachers employed for the erection of buildings for schools and libraries at the different posts.

5. The repeal or amendment of the act of June 18, 1873, forbidding the "use of the army as a posse comitatus, or otherwise, for the purpose of executing the laws, except in such cases and under such circumstances as may be expressly authorized by the Constitution or by act of Congress."

6. The passage of a joint resolution of Congress legalizing the issues of rations, tents and medicines which were made for the relief of sufferers from yellow fever.

7. That provision be made for the erection of a new and improved building for the preservation of certain valuable records, now constantly exposed to destruction by fire.

These recommendations are all commended to your favorable consideration.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows that the navy has improved during the last fiscal year. Work has been done on seventy five vessels, ten of which have been thoroughly repaired, and made ready for sea. Two others are in rapid progress toward completion. The total expenditures of the year, including the amount appropriated for the deficiencies of the previous year, were \$17,468,392.65. The actual expenses chargeable to the year, exclusive of these deficiencies were \$12,306,914.69 or \$767,199.18 less than the previous year, and \$4,928,677.74 less than the expenses, including the deficiencies. The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, are \$14,562,381.45—exceeding the appropriations of the present year only \$33,919.75; which excess is occasioned by the demands of the Naval Academy and the Marine Corps, as explained in the Secretary's report.

The appropriations for the present fiscal year are \$14,528,431.70, which, in the opinion of the Secretary, will be ample for all the current expenses of the Department during the year. The amount drawn from the Treasury from July 1, to November 1, 1878, is \$4,740,544.14, of which \$70,980.75 has been returned, leaving an expenditure for that period \$4,669,563.39, or \$32,899.24 less than the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

The report of the Postmaster General embraces a detailed statement of the operations of the Post office Department. The expenditures of that Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1878, were \$34,165,084.49. The receipts, including sales of stamps, money order business, and official stamps, were \$29,277,516.95. The sum of \$299,436.90, included in the foregoing statement of expenditures, is chargeable to preceding years, so that the actual expenditures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1878, are \$33,874,647.50. The amount drawn from the Treasury on appropriations, in addition to the revenues of the Department, was \$3,307,692.82. The expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, are estimated at \$36,571,900, and the receipts from all sources at \$30,664,023.90, leaving a deficiency to be appropriated out of the Treasury of \$5,907,876.10. The report calls attention to the fact that the compensation of postmasters and of railroads for carrying the mail is regulated by law, and that the failure of Congress to appropriate the amounts required for these purposes does not relieve the Government of responsibility, but necessarily increases the deficiency (this which Congress will be called upon to pass).

In providing for the postal service, the following questions are presented:—Should Congress annually appropriate a sum for its expenses largely in excess of its revenue, or should such rates of postage be established as will make the Department self-sustaining? Should the postal service be reduced by excluding from the mails matter which does not pay its way? Should the number of post routes be diminished? Should other methods be adopted which will increase the revenues or diminish the expenses of the postal service?

The International Postal Congress, which met at Paris May 1, 1878, and continued in session until June 4 of the same year, was composed of delegates from nearly all the civilized countries of the world. It adopted a new convention, to take the place of the treaty concluded at Bern, October 9, 1874, which goes into effect on the 1st April, '79, between the countries whose delegates have signed it. It was ratified and approved, by and with the consent of the President, August 13, 1878. A synopsis of this Universal Postal Convention will be found in the report of the Postmaster General and the full text in the appendix hereto. In its origin the Postal Union comprised twenty three countries, having a population of three hundred and fifty millions of people. On the 1st of April next it will comprise forty three countries and colonies, with a population of more than six hundred and fifty millions of people, and will soon, by the accession of the few remaining countries and colonies which maintain organized postal services, constitute, in fact as well as in name, as its present indications, a Universal Union, regulating, upon a uniform basis of cheap postage rates, the postal intercourse between all civilized nations.

Some embarrassment has arisen out of the conflict between the customs laws of this country and the provisions of the Postal Convention, in regard to the transmission of foreign books and newspapers to this country by mail. It is hoped that Congress will be able to devise some means of reconciling the difficulties which have thus been created, so as to do justice to all parties involved.

The business of the Supreme Court, and of the courts in many of the circuits, has increased to such an extent during the past years that additional legislation is imperative to relieve and prevent the delay of justice, and possibly oppression to suitors, which is thus occasioned. The number of cases pending in these dockets is presented now in the report of the Attorney General, and the remedy suggested is earnestly urged for Congressional action. The creation of additional circuit judges, as proposed, would afford a complete remedy, and would involve an expense—at the present rate of salaries—not more than \$60,000 a year.

The annual reports of the Secretary of the Interior and of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, present an elaborate account of the present condition of the Indian tribes, and of the progress of the public service which ministers to their interests. While the conduct of the Indians, generally, has been orderly, and their relations with their neighbors friendly and peaceful, two local disturbances have occurred, which were deplorable in their character, but remained, happily, confined to a comparatively small number of Indians. The discontent among the Blackfeet, which led first to some acts of violence on the part of some members of the tribe and finally to the outbreak, appears to have been caused by an insufficiency of food on the reservation, and this insufficiency to have been owing to the inadequacy of the appropriations, made by Congress, to the wants of the Indians, at the time when the Indians were prevented from supplying the deficiency by hunting. After an arduous pursuit by the troops of the United States, and several engagements, the hostile Indians were reduced to submission, and the larger part of them surrendered themselves as prisoners. In this connection, I desire to call attention to the recommendation made by the Secretary of the Interior, that a sufficient fund be placed at the disposal of the Executive, to be used, with proper accountability, at his discretion, in sudden emergencies of the Indian service.

The other cause of disturbance was that of a band of Northern Cheyennes who suddenly left their reservation in the Indian Territory and marched rapidly through the States of Kansas and Nebraska in the direction of their old hunting grounds, committing murders and other crimes on the part of some members of the tribe and finally to the outbreak, appears to have been caused by an insufficiency of food on the reservation, and this insufficiency to have been owing to the inadequacy of the appropriations, made by Congress, to the wants of the Indians, at the time when the Indians were prevented from supplying the deficiency by hunting.

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